

THE  
ANTIQUITY  
AND  
DIGNITY  
OF  
PARLIAMENTS.

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Written by  
Sir ROBERT COTTON.

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J. H. COLEMAN



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## [ 1 ]

*That the Kings of England have been pleased, usually to Consult in the Great Council of Marriage, Peace and War, with their Peers and Commons in Parliament.*

**T**O search so high as the *Norman* Conquest, that is necessary to lay down the Form and Government of those Times, wherein State-Affairs were led in another Form of publick Councils: For the People wrought under the Sword of the First *William*, and his Followers, to a subjected Vassallage, and could not possess in such Assemblies, the Right of their former Liberties, Division and Power having mastered them, and none of their own Nobility and Heads being left, either of Credit or Fortunes.

What he retained not in Providence, (as the Demesnes of the Crown) or reserved in Piety, (as the Maintenance of the Church) he parted to those Strangers that sailed along with him, in that Barque of his Adventure, leaving the Natives for the most part, (as appeareth in his Survey) in no better condition than Villainage: He moulded their Customs to the manner of his own Countrey, and forbore to grant the Laws of holy *Edward*, so often called for.

To supply his occasions of Men, Money and Provision, he ordered, that all those that enjoyed any fruit of his Conquest, should hold their Lands proportionable by so many Knights Fees of the Crown, admitted them to enfeof their Followers, with such parts as they pleased of their own Portions; which to ease their Charge, they did in his and his Sons times, by two Enfeoffments, the one *de Novo*, the other *de Veteri*.

This course provided him the body of the War; the Money and Provision was by Head-age assessed on the common People, at the Consent of the Lords, who held in all their Seigniories such Right of Regality, that to their Vassals, as *Paris* saith, *Quot Domini, tot Tyranni*, and proved to the King so great a Curb, and restraint of Power, that nothing fell into the Care of his Majesty after, more than to retrench the Force of his *Aristocracy*, that was in time like to strangle the *Monarchy*.

Though others foresaw the Mischiefs betimes, yet none attempted the Remedy, until King *John*, whose over-hasty Undertaking, brought in these Broyls of the Barons Wars.

There needed not before this Care, to advise with the Commons in any publick Assembly, when every Man in *England*, by

A

Tenure

*William the Conqueror.*

*Dooms-day Book.*

*Admerus. Huntingdon.*

*Ex libro Feodaris in Scaccio.*

*Hen. 4. Statut.*

*Ex libro Rubro Scaccio.*

*Cronicon de Dnustable.*

*Benedict Monard in vita Hen. 2.*



## [ 2 ]

Tenure, held himself to his great Lord's Will, whose presence was ever regnized in those great Councils, and in whose Assent, his dependant Tenant's Consent was ever included.

*Claus. 6. in Dorso.*

Before this King's Time then, we seek in vain for any Commons Called; they were ever Called for making of Laws, but not to Consult touching War or Peace: He first, as may be gathered, (though darkly by the Records) used their Counsels and Assents in the 6th. year of his Reign.

*Paris 6. Ro. 2. in Dorso.*

Here is the first Summons in Record to the Peers or Barons: *Traſſatur de magnis & ardinis negotiis*: It was about a War of Defence against the French, and at that time the Commons were admitted. As this time that may fitly be gathered by this Ordinance, *Provisum est communi assensu Archiepiscoporum Commotium, Barronium & omnium fidelium nostrorum Angliæ quod novem Milites per Angliam inveniend. de communi Ro.* And this was directed to all the Sheriffs in England, the ancient use in publick Laws.

*Claus. 49. Hen. 3. in Dorso.*

From this there is a break, until 18 *Hen. 3.* where the next Summons extant is in a Plea-Roll of that year; but the Ordinances are lost, from thence the Record affords no light, until the 49th. of the same King, where then the Summons to Bishops, Lords, Knights and Burgessees, are much in manner, though not in matter, alike to the Use of our Times. This Parliament was Called to advise with the King, *prop pace asseveranda & firmanda*, they are the words; and where Advice is required, Consultation must be admitted.

*Edw. I.*

*Ex Rot. Parl. in Archivis London.*

To this King succeeds *Edw. I.* his Son a wife, a just, and a fortunate Prince: In his Reign we have no light of any publick Counsel in this kind, and so along to the 4th. of his Grandchild's Reign, but what we borrow in the Rolls of Summons, wherein the Form stood various according to the occasions, until that grew constant in the form that's now about the entring of *Rich. II.* the Journal Rolls being spoiled by the injury of Time, or private Ends.

*Claus. 5. Edw. I. in Dorso.*

*Claus. 7. Edw. I. m. 3. in Dorso.*

*Claus. 34. Ed. I. in Dorso.*

The King in the 5th. of his Reign, Called a Parliament, and therein advised with his Lords and Commons, for the suppressing *Lluellin*, Prince of Wales; and hearing that the French King intended to some pieces of his Inheritance in France, summoned a Parliament, *ad tractandum, ordinandum, & savendum cum Prelatis proceribus & aliis Incolis Regni qualibet hujusmodi Periculis, & Excogitatis militiis sic abjurand.* inserting in the Writ, that that was *Lex justissima provida Circumspectione stabilita*; that that which *omnes tangit ab omnibus approbetur*, in the 34th. of his Reign, *super ordinatione & stabiliamento Regni Scotiæ*, he made the like Convention.

His



## [ 3 ]

His Son, the II. *Edw. pro solemnitate sponsalium & Coronationis*, consulted with his People in his first year; in his 6th. year, *super diversis negotiis Statum Regni & expeditione Guerræ Scotiæ specialiter tangentibus*, he assembled the State to advise; the like he did in his 8th. year.

*Edw. 2. Claus. 1. 19 m. Claus. 6. 3 m. Claus. 8. 3 m. Claus. 13. m. 13. in Dors.*

The French King having invaded Gascoigne, in the 13th. year of the Parliament, was Called, *super ordinis negotiis Statum Ducatus Gasconie tangentibus*; and in the 16th. to consult, *ad refræmandum Scotorum obstinantiâ & malitiâ*.

*Claus. 16. m. 27*

Before *Edw. III.* would resolve in his first year, whether Peace or War with the Scots King, he summoned the Peers and Commons, *super præmissis tractare & Consilium impendere*.

*Edw. 3. Claus. 1*

The Chancellor, *Anno 5.* declareth from the King the cause of that Assembly, and that that was to consult and resolve, whether the King should proceed with France, for the recovery of his Seignories, by Alliance of Marriage, or by War; and whether to redress the Disobedience of the Irish, he should go thither in person or no.

*Rot. Parl. 7.*

The year following he re-assembled his Lords and Commons, and requireth their Advice, whether he should undertake the holy Expedition with the French King or no; the Bishops and Proctors of the Clergy would not be present, as forbidden by the Commons such Counsels: The Peers and Commons consult, applauding the Religious and Princely forwardness of their Sovereign to this hard Enterprize; but humbly advise forbearance this year, for urgent Reasons.

*Parl. 6 Edw. 3.*

The same year, (though another Sessions,) the King demanding the Advice of his People, whether he should pass into France, to an Interview, as was desired, for the expediting the Treaty of Marriage: The Prelates by themselves, and the Earls and Barons by themselves, and the Knights of the Shires by themselves, consult apart, (for so is the Records) and in the end resolved, that to prevent some dangers likely to arise from the North, that would please the King to forbear his Journey, and to draw towards those Parts where the perils were feared, his presence being the best prevention; which Advice he followed.

*Rot. Parl. 6 Edw. 3. Sess. 2. m. 6.*

In the following Parliament at York, the King sheweth, how by their former Advice, he had drawn himself towards the North Parts, and now again he had assembled them, to advise further for his Proceedings. To which the Lords and Commons having consulted apart, pray further time to resolve, until a full Assembly of the State: To which the King granting, adjourneth that Sessions.

At their next Meeting, they are charged upon their Allegiance and Faith, to give the King their best Advice. The Peers and Commons (consulting apart) delivered their Opinions, and so that Parliament ended.

*Rot. 7 Edw. 3. Sess. 2. Parl. 7 Edw. 3. m. 6.*

In

## [ 4 ]

In the 13th. year, the Grandees and Commons are called to consult and advise, how the domestick Quiet may be preserved, the Marches of *Scotland* defended, and the Sea scoured from Enemies : The Peers and Commons ( having apart consulted ) the Commons desire not to be charged to Counsel in things, *desquenz ils neut pas Cognisauz*, answer, that the Guardians of the Shire, assisted by the Knights, may effect the first, ( if Pardons of Felony be not granted ) the care of the Marches they humbly leave to the King and Counsel; and for the safeguard of the Seas, they wish that the Cinque-ports and Maritime Towns, ( discharged for the most part from many Burthens of Inland Parts ) may have that left to their Charge and Care; and that such as have Lands near the Sea-Coasts, be commanded to reside in those Possessions.

Rot. Parl.  
13 Edw. 3.  
Steff. 2.

The Parliament is the same year re-assembled to advise, *De expeditione Guerre in partibus transmarinis*. At this Assembly Ordinances are made for provision of Ships, arraying of Men for the Marches, and defence of the Isle of *Jersey*, naming such in the Record, as they conceived for the Employments.

Parl. 14 Edw. 3.  
Parl. 15 Edw. 3.

The next year, *De la Poole* accounteth the Expences of the War; a new Aid is granted, and by several Committees, ( in which divers were named, that were not Peers of Parliament ) the safeguard of the Seas, and defence of the Borders, are consulted of.

Parl. 17 Edw. 3.

In the 15th. year, *Assensu Prelatorum, Procerum, & aliorum de Consilio*, the King's Passage into *France* is resolved of.

In *Anno 17. Badlesmore*, in the place of the Chancellor, declareth to the Peers and Commons, That whereas by their Assents, the King had undertaken the Wars with *France*, and that by the Mediation of the Pope, a Truce was offered, which then their Sovereign forbore to entertain, without their well Allowance.

The Lords apart consult; and also the Commons, returning by Sir *William Trussel*, in answer to their Advice and Desire to compose the Quarrel, approve the Truce, and the Pope's Mediation.

The Pope's Undertaking proving fruitless, and delays to the *French* advantage, who in the mean space, (with *Scotland* and others) practised to root out the *English* Nation; in *France*, the King again assembled his Parliament the year following : In which the Peers and Commons, after many days of Deliberation, resolve to end that, either by Battel or Peace, and no more to trust to the Mediation of his Holiness.

Parl. 21 Edw. 3.

In the 12th. the Chief Justice *Thorpe*, declaring to the Peers and Commons, that the *French* Wars began by their Advice.

First

[5]

First, The Truce, after by their Assents accepted, and now ended, the King's Pleasure was to have their Counsels in these Prosecutions: The Commons being commanded, *Tils se devoi-  
rent ensemble & si ils assent* le devraient nostre au Roy &  
all Grandees de son Counsel, who after four days consulting, hum-  
bly desire of the King, that he would be advised herein by his  
Lords, and others of more Experience than themselves in such  
Affairs.

To advise the King the best for his *French* Employments, a Par-<sup>Parl. 25 Ed. 3.</sup>  
liament was summoned, *Anno 25.* wherein the King by a more  
publick Dispatch, willeth the Commons to elect twenty four,  
or thirty, of their House, to consult with the Lords; these to  
relate to their Fellows, and the Conclusion in general, by the Lords  
to the King.

In the 27th. a great Counsel is assembled, many of the Lay-<sup>Parl. 27 Ed. 3</sup>  
Peers, few of the Clergy, and of the Knights of the Shires, and  
Burgeßes, but one a piece. This was for the prosecution of  
the *French* Wars, when honourable following. A Truce being  
offered, the King forbare his Peers and Commons, which they in  
Parliament accorded unto before the Pope's Notary, by publick  
Instinct.

The dallying of the *French* King, in conclusion of Peace, and<sup>Parl. 29 Ed. 3.</sup>  
the falling off of the Duke of *Britain*, (having wrought his End  
with *France*, by reputation of the *Engliß* Succour) is the year  
following declared in Parliament, and their Advice and Aid re-  
quired for the King's Proceedings.

In the 36th. year, he Calleth his Parliament to consult, whe-<sup>Parl. 36 Ed. 3</sup>  
ther War or Peace, (by *David* King of *Scots* then offered) should  
be accepted.

In the 40th. year, the Pope demanding the Tribute of King<sup>Parl. 40 Ed. 3.</sup>  
*John*, the Parliament assembled, when after Consultation apart.  
The Prelates, Lords and Commons, advise the denial, although  
it be by dint of Sword.

In the 43d. the King declared to the Peers and Commons,<sup>Parl. 43 Ed. 3.</sup>  
that the *French*, against the Articles of the Truce, refused pay-  
ment of the Moneys, and delivery of the Towns, summoning *La*  
*Brett*, and others of the King's Subjects in *Gascoin*, to make at  
*Paris* their Appeals, and had forraged his Countrey of *Poitgers*,  
requiring (in their breach) whether he might not regain hit  
style of *France*.

The Lords and Commons had apart consulted; they advised  
the King to both, which he approving, altered the Inscription  
and Figure of his style.

Two years after, it was declared to the Peers and Commons,<sup>Parl. 45 Ed. 3.</sup>  
that by their Advice, he had again resumed the style and quar-  
rel of *France*, and therefore called their Advice, for the defence

B

of



## [ 6 ]

of the Realm against the *French*, securing of the Seas, and pursuing of the Wars; of which they consult and resolve to give the King an Aid.

*Parl. 46 Ed. 3.* The like Council and Supply was the very next following.

*Parl. 46 Ed. 3.* In the 50. a Parliament to the purpose of the former two was Summoned; and the year following the King in Parliament declaring how the *French* had Combined under hand against him with *Spain* and *Scotland*; required their advice how Peace at home, Territories abroad, Security of the Seas, and Charge of the War might be maintained.

I have the longer insisted in observing the Carriage of those Times, so good and so glorious; after Ages having not left the Journal Entries of Parliament so full, which with a lighter hand I will pass through.

*Rich. 2. Parl. 1. m. 3. a. 6.* *Richard* the 2d. his Grand-child succeeded to the Crown and Troubles, having nothing worthy his great Fortunes but his Birth: The first of his reign he pursued the steps of his Wise Grand-father, advising with his Peers and Commons how best to resist his Enemies that had lately wronged many of his Subjects on the Sea Coasts.

*Parl. 2. Rich. 2. m. 1.* In the second year he again Consulted with his people how to withstand the *Scots*, who then had Combined with the *French* to break the Truce.

*Parl. 3. Rich. 2. m. 4. 5.* In the third year calleth the advice of his Parliament how to maintain the Regality impaired by the Popes Provisions, how to resist *France*, *Spain* and *Scotland*, that had raised Wars against him, how to suppress his Rebels in *Guzen* and *Ireland*, and to defend the Seas.

*Parl. 4. Rich. 2. m. 2. 3.* In the 4th. year of his Reign he calleth the like at *Windser*; the year following in a great Council the King having proposed a Voyage Royal into *France*; now called his Parliament to determine further of that: And that is worth observation, that for the most part, before any proposition of War or Peace were vented to the Commons; A debate thereof proceedeth in the great Council to shape that fitter for popular advice.

*Parl. 5. Rich. 2. Sess. 2. a.* The quarrel with *Spain* continuing, the Duke of *Lancaster* offereth a Voyage against them, so the State will lend him Money; after Consultation they grant an Aid, but not to bind them to any continuance of War with *Spain*.

*Parl. 6. Rich. 2. Sess. 1.* In the sixth, the Parliament was called to Consult about the Defence of the Borders, the Kings Possessions beyond the Seas, *Ireland* and *Gascoigne*, his Subjects in *Portugal*.

The Lords approve the Dukes intention for *Portugal*, and the Commons advise that the Bishop of *Norwich*, having the Croycery, should Invade *France*.

## [ 7 ]

The same year the State was re-assembled, to consult whether the King should go in person to rescue *Gaunt*, or to send his Army. The Commons after two days debate, crave a Conference with the Lords; the effect is not entred in the Roll, only they by Sir *Thomas Fuchering* their Speaker, protest, that Counsels of War did aptly belong to the King and his Lords: Yet since the Commons were commanded to give their Advice, they humbly with a Voyage Royal by the King; if not, that the Bishop of *Norwich* might, with the advantage of the Pope's *Croycery*, be used in that service, who accepted the Charge with ill success.

*Parl. 6 Rich. 2.  
Sess. 1. a.*

Here further the Commons pray, that the King's Uncle should not be spared out of the Realm, before some Peace was settled with the *Scots*, and that the Lord *Delassar*, sent with Provisions of Peace from *Spain*, might first be heard.

The Chancellor, in the 7th year, in the Name of the King, willet the Lords apart; and so the Commons do consult, whether Peace or War with *Scotland*, or whether to resist or to assail the King's Adversaries of *Spain*, *France*, or *Flanders*.

*Parl. 7 Rich. 2.  
Sess. 4.*

Their Opinions are not entred in the Rolls, (an omission usually by the Clerk his neglect) only their Petition is recorded, that the Bishop of *Norwich* may account in Parliament the expence of the Money, and be punished for his faults, in the service he undertook; both which are granted.

At the next Sessions, the same year, the Commons are willed to advise upon view of the Articles of Peace with the *French*, whether War, or such Amity should be accepted.

They modestly excuse themselves, as too weak to counsel in so weighty Causes: But charged again, as they did tender the Honour and Right of the King, they make this Answer, *Tils intrudont que aistmies services terres y mesne leur leige anecoit ore per testavior in Guyen si ferront tenus del Roy Francois per tril sernior la villa de Callis & auter terres acquise & conquise aes Francois per les fore nene verroit la Commen y aninse Ainst fait si autrement preroit been faire*, giving their Opinions rather for Peace than War.

Peace with *France* not succeeding, the 8th. year the Body of the State was called to advise, whether the King in his own person, or the sending of Forces against the *French*, *Spaniard*, *Flanders* and *Scotland*, should proceed.

The King having assembled at *Oxon*, his Great Counsel, to advise whether he should pass the Seas or no with an Army Royal; and they not daring to assent without a greater Counsel, a Parliament, the 10th. year, was called, to have the Advice of the Commons as well as the Lords, how the Realm should be governed in their Sovereign's absence.

*Claus. 9 Rich. 2.*

*Claus. 10 Ric. 2.*

The

Parl. 13 Rich. 2

The Truce with *France* now near expired; the Parliament was called in the 13th. year, to advise upon what Conditions it should be renewed, otherwise how the Charge of War should be sustained. At this Assembly, and by consent of all, the Duke of *Lancaster* is created Duke of *Aquitain*; the Statutes of Provisions now passed; the Commons are named partly in the Letter to the Pope.

Rot. Claus.  
13 Rich. 2.

Boniface 9.

Parl. 14 Rich. 2

The year succeeding, a Parliament is called, for that the King would have the Advice of his Lords and Commons for the War with *Scotland*, and would not without their Counsel, conclude a final Peace with *France*.

The like Assembly for the Causes, was the year ensuing.

The Commons humbly desire the King, to use a moderation in the Law of Provision, so that the Statute upon their dislike may again be exempted; and that to negotiate the Peace with *France*, the Duke of *Aquitain* may rather than another be employed.

Parl. 17 Rich. 2

To consult of the Treaty with *France* for Peace, the King in the 17th. year calleth a Parliament; the Answer of the Lords is left un-enter'd in the Rolls.

The Commons upon their Faith and Allegiance charged, advise, that with good moderation, provision may be made for *Guyen*, an Appendage of the *French* Crown, so it trench not to involve the other pieces of the *English* Conquest. Their Answer is large, modest, and worthy to mark.

Hen. 4. Parl. 5.

Now succeeded a Man that first studied a Popularity, as needing all to support his Titles: He in the 5th. year calleth a Parliament, to repress the malice of the Duke of *Orleans*, and to advise for the Wars in *Ireland* and *Scotland*; neither Counsels nor supplies are entred into Roll; and to resist an Invasion intended by *France* and *Britain*, he assembleth the State again.

Parl. 6 Hen. 4.

Parl. 7 Hen. 4.

m. 19, 20.

The like was the two years following for *France*. In this the Commons confer with the Lords for Guard of the Sea, and make many Ordinances, to which the King assented: The Peace with the Merchants of *Pruce*, and the Hanse-Towns, is debated, and a Proclamation published, as they resolved by the Speaker. The Commons complain of 96 pieces of Ordnance lost in *Guyen* the year before; the need of the defence of the Borders, and Guard of the Sea-Coasts, to suppress the Rebellion in *Wales*, and Disloyalty of the Earl of *Northumberland*: They humbly desire, that the Prince may be dispatched into those Parts with speed, and that the Castle of \_\_\_\_\_ the Key of three Realms, might be left to the Care of the *English*, not to *Charles Navarr*, a stranger, and to have a diligent Eye of the *Scottish* Prisoners.

Claus. 7 Hen. 4.  
n 33.

Parl. 10 Hen. 4.

In the 10th. year a Parliament is called, and the Commons commanded to give their Advice about the Truce of *Scotland*, and preparation against the malice of the *French*. His



## [ 9 ]

His Son, the wise and happy Undertaker, consulteth with the Parliament in his first year, how to cherish his Allies, and restrain his Enemies. For this there was a select Committee of the Commons, appointed to confer with the Lords; the matter being entred into scedule touching *Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Calis, N.9.* *Gnyen*, shipping, Guard of the Seas, and warry provision to repulse the Enemy. Hen. 5. Parl. 1.

In the 2d. he openeth to the Parliament his Title to *France*, a Quarrel he would present to death, if they allowed and aided; death in this Assembly enacted to all, that either break the Truce, or the King's safe Conduct. Parl. 2 Hen. 5

The year following, Peace being offered by the *French King*, and the King of the *Romans*, armed to effect the work; the King refused any conclusion, until he had had thereunto the Advice and Assent of his Lords and Commons; for which occasion the Chancellor declareth it to that Assembly. Parl. 3 Hen. 5

In the 4th. and 5th. year, no Peace concluded with *France*, he calleth the State together to consult about the War, concluding a Treaty of Amity with *Sigismund*, King of the *Romans*, by the allowance of the three Estates, and entreth Articles in the Journal Roll. Parl. 4 & 5 Hen. 5.

The same year, by the Duke of *Bedford*, in the King's absence, a Parliament was called to the former purpose, as appeareth by the Summons, though in the Roll omitted. Parl. 5 Hen. 5

The like in the 7th. year:

The Treaty with *France* is by the Prelate, Nobles and Commons of the Kingdom, perused and ratified, in the 10th. of this King. Parl. 7 Hen. 5.  
Ref. Parl.  
10 Hen. 5.

This Son, more holy than happy, succeeded, advised in the 2d. year with the Lords and Commons, for the well keeping of the Peace with *France*, consulteth with them about the delivery of the *Scottish* King, and the conclusion of it is confirmed by common Assent. Hen. 6. Ref. Parl.  
2 Hen. 6.

And in the third year they are called to advise and consent to a new Article in the League with *Scotland* for Charge of Hostages. Ref. Parl.  
3 Hen. 6.

And in the ninth year conclude by name of certain persons to Treat a Peace with the Dauphin of *France*. 9 Hen. 6.

The Treaty of *Arras*, (whether the Pope had sent as Mediators two Cardinals) not succeeding, the King in Parliament (in anno 1640.) sheweth that he must either loose his Title and Kingdom of *France*, or else defend it by Force; the best means for prevention whereof, he willet them to advise him. Eugenius 4.

He Summoneth again the next year the Council, how the Realm might be best Defended, and the Sea kept Safe against the Enemies. Parl. 15 Hen. 6.

## ( 10 )

*Parl 20 Hen. 6.* In the 20<sup>th</sup>. the Commons exhibit a Bill for Guard of the Sea; a certain number of Ships Assess wages, and dispose of Prizes, if any Fortune; to which the King accordeth: And that the *Gronowages* may be declared Enemies for Assisting the *Turk* in the Spoil of the *Rhodes* Knights; and that the Priviledge of the Prince and Hance Towns may be suspended, till Composition be made to the *English* for wronger they have done them. To which in part the King accordeth.

*Anno 27 H. 6.* The King by the Chancellor declareth in Parliament, that the Marriage with *Margaret* the King of *Sicily's* Daughter, was Contracted for enducing the Peace made with the *French*, to which the Lords (not by their advice effected) make Protestation, enter it upon the Roll.

*Anno 25 H. 6.* The King intending to pass in person into *France*, then to Treat of Peace with the King, advises with his Lords and Commons in Parliament; and Letters of Mart are granted against the *Britains* for Spoils done to the *English* Merchants.

*Anno 27 H. 6.* The Lord *Hastings* and the Abbot of *Glocester* declared in Parliament the Preparation of the *French*, the Breach by them of the Peace, the weak defence of *Normandy*, and expiration shortly of the Truce; requiring speedy advice and remedy.

*Anno 29 H. 6.* It was enjoyned the Parliament to provide for the defence of the Sea and Land against the *French*.

*Anno 29 H. 6.* It was commanded by the King to the States assembled, to advise for the well ordering of his House, payment of his Souldiers at *Calice*, Guard of the Seas, Raising of the Siege at *Berwick* made by the *Scots* against the Truce, disposing of the 13000 Souldiers Arayed the last Parliament, According of differences amongst the Lords, restraining Transportation of Gold and Silver, and acquiting the Disorders in *Wales*; of all which Committees are appointed to frame Bills.

*Ed. 4. Anno 7.* *Edward* the 4<sup>th</sup>. by the Chancellor declareth to the Lords and Commons, that having Peace with the *Scots*, entred League with *Spain* and *Denmark*, Contracted with *Burgundy* and *Brittain* for their Aid, in Recovery of his Right in *France*; he had now Assembled them to give their Advise and Counsel therein proceeding, with a Charge in a second Session again pressed them.

*Anno 12 Ed. 4.* The like was at another Parliament.

*Hen. 7.* After this time the Journalls of Parliaments have been either not well preserved, or not carefully Entred: For I can find of this nature no Record, until the first of *Hen.* the 7<sup>th</sup>. wherein the Commons, by *Thomas Lovel* their Speaker, Petitioned the King to take to Wife *Elizabeth* the Daughter of *Edward* the 4<sup>th</sup>. to which at their request agreeth.

## ( 11 )

The next is the third of *Henry* the 8<sup>th</sup>. in which, from the King the Chancellor delivereth to the three Estates the Cause of their Assembly. The first to advise a course for resisting the Invasion of the *Scots*: Next how to acquit the Quarrel between the King and the *Castiles*, and the Duke of *Guilders*. Hen. 8. Rot.  
Parl. 3. Hen. 8.

Lastly, for resisting the *Pope* against *Lewis* of *France*, whose Bull expressing the Injuries done to the See Apostolique, was read by the Master of the Rolls in open Parliament: The Chancellor, Treasurer, and other Lords sent down unto the Commons to confer thereof. Julius 2.

The last in the 32. where the Chancellor remembring the many Troubles the State had undergone in doubtful Titles of Succession, declareth that the Convocation had judged void the Marriage with *Anne* of *Cleve*; yet the King would not proceed without the Counsel of the three Estates. Rot. 3 Hen.  
8 Parl.

The two Archbishops are sent to the Commons with the Sentence Sealed, which being read, and there discussed; they pass a Bill against the Marriage. Ex Instrumens.  
Original.

In all these passages of publick Council, wherein I have been much assisted by the painful Labours of Mr. *Flisng* Clerk of the Parliament, I still observe that the Sovereign Lord, either in best Advice, or most Necessities, would entertain the Commons with the weightiest Causes, either Forraign or Domestick, to adapt and bind them so to readiness of Charge; and they as warily avoiding to shun Expencc: Their Modest answers may be a Rule for ignorant liberty to form their duties, and humbly to entertain such weighty Counsels at their Sovereigns pleasure; and not out of the wild sin of any Factious Spirits.

I will only add one Forraign Example, to shew what use hath been formerly made of pretended Marriages, and of Parliaments to dissolve them, their first ends served.

*Maximilian* the Emperor, and *Ferdinand* of *Spain*; the one to secure his Possessions in *Italy*, the other to secure the Kingdom of *Navar*: To both which the *French* King stood in the way, projecting a Marriage of *Charles* the Grand-child with *Mary* the King of *England*'s Sister: It was embraced a Contract, *per verba de presenti*, passed, and a Book published, of the Benefit and Liberty to ensue the Christian World by this Match.

Upon this ground *Ferdinand* begins to incite King *Henry* the 8<sup>th</sup>. to War in *France*; presents him with Succour, designs him *Guyen* to be the Mark: *Dorset* is sent with Men and Munition to joyn with the *Spanish* Forces.

Then on the Borders of *Navar* the noise is, they come to assist *Ferdinand* in Conquest of that Kingdom, which (though false) gain such reputation, that *Albird* was disheartned, and *Ferdinand* possessed himself of that which his Successors since retained,



## [ 12 ]

tained, his ends served; the *English* Army in the depth of Winter, weak and weather-beaten, are returned fruitless.

*Maximilian* then allureth the Young and Active King to begin with *France* on the other side *Turway*; and *Turway* is now the Object whether *Henry* the 8th. goeth with Victory, but advised with that pittance, maketh an end with *France*, whose Eye and Heart was set on *Maximilian*.

Extrast. Original. 1515.

A new Bait the Old Emperor casteth out to catch the ambitious Young man: He will needs Resign unto him the Empire, too heavy for his Age to bear.

The Cardinal *Sidanensis* is sent over to Sign the Agreement, (which he did) and *France* must now again be made an Enemy.

Extrast. Orig. 15, 16.

To prevent this danger, *France* releaseth his Title to *Naples* and offereth his Infanta *Lampfia* to *Maximilian's* Grand-child, *Charles* of *Noyen*.

This is acted in the dark; and at *Arno* the French Commissioners come up the back Stairs with 60000. and the ingrossed Covenants, when they abused the King of *England's* Ambassadors; a pace went down the other way. The Lord Cardinal returneth home, meeteth by the way the fowl play of his Master, and Writ to the King of *England*; not in Excuse, but in Complaint, *contra per fideam Principium*, an Honest Servant.

*Ferdinand* and *Maximilian* dead, *Francis* and *Charles* are Competitors for the Empire.

Ex Literis Car. Regis Hesp.

*Henry* the 8th. is Courted for his help by both, the one with tie of Alliance (for the Infanta, Dauphin had offered to *Henry* the 8th. the other with the like; the one will make his Daughter a Queen in present, which the Dauphin cannot do; and by his favour an Empress.

Ex Literis Car. 5 Impr. Orig.

To further *Francis*, was but to win ambition, to prey upon all his Neighbours.

Extrast. Widdell.

The *English* is won, and winneth for *Spain*, all the Imperial Wealth, which *Charles* (in two Letters I have of his own Hand) then thankfully confessed. From *Aquisgrave* he cometh Crowned in haste to *England*; weddeth at *Windsor* the King's Daughter; contracteth to joyn in an Invasion of *France*; to divide it with his Father-in-law by the River of *Rhodines*; and sweareth at the Altar in *Pauls* to keep Faith in all.

Ex Orig. Instr.

*Burbon* is wrought from *France*, and entreth the Province with an Army, paid with King *Henry's* Money; *Suffolk* passeth with the *English* Forces by *Picardy*: But *Charles* the Emperor, who should have entred by *Gwyen*, faileth, drawing away *Burbon* from a strait siege of *Maffels*, to interrupt *Francis*, then entred *Italy*; and so the Enterprize of *France* is defeated.

Ex Literis Ric. Par. & Joh. Russell.

The

